



Partnerships in Planning and Developing River Parks

Although they are in various stages of planning and development, with the continued cooperation from the many partnerships involved and the strong community support, San Diego County may soon be home to seven river parks. Please join us as we tour three of these developing parks.

San Diego River Park and Regional Trail

Imagine a 55+ mile greenbelt of open space and trails stretching from the mountains near the historic mining town of Julian to the Pacific Ocean along the most regionally significant San Diego River. Mike Nelson, Executive Director of the **San Diego River Conservancy**, the eighth state-chartered conservancy, will provide an overview of the project, its many community partners, its challenges and its many successes as it meanders through backcountry wilderness areas and through a very urban, commercialized Mission Valley.



Cedar Creek Falls



Lakeside's River Park Trail
S. Waters 02/08

We will start the tour in East County with a stop and hike along **Lakeside's River Park Conservancy's** portion of the San Diego River Trail. Executive Director, Robin Rierdan will share the uncertain beginnings of the River Park in Lakeside as support for the project divided the community. Since then there have been many successes due to their partnerships and growing community-wide support.

stop at the **City of Santee's Mast Park**. Santee's largest park, award-winning Mast Park hugs the banks of the meandering San Diego River on the western border of Santee Town Center. John Coates, Director of Community Services, will share the past and future development of the San Diego River Park and Trail as it traverses Santee.

From Lakeside we'll travel west with a



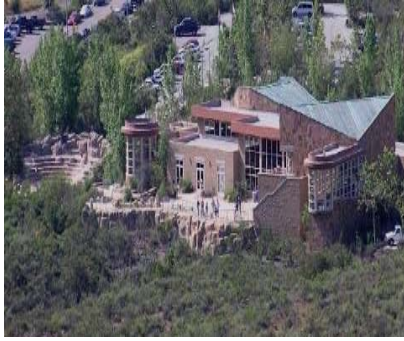
Mast Park Trail, Santee



Old Mission Dam
M. Vancio 01/06

Just a short drive from Santee, we'll conclude the San Diego River Park tour at Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP). This 5,800 acre park encompasses both natural and developed recreational acres. Originally used by the Kumeyaay, the park is the site of the Old Mission Dam, along the San Diego River, built to store water for the Mission San Diego de Alcalá. Its rugged hills, valleys and open areas represent a San Diego prior to the landing of Cabrillo in San Diego Bay in 1542.

2008 Trails& Greenways Conference Pre-Conference Workshop



*Visitor & Interpretive Center
D. Leonard 04/05*

We'll break for lunch at MTRP Visitor and Interpretive Center. After lunch, we will have a brief presentation on the planned trail connections through MTRP then board the bus again and head south to the Otay Valley Regional Park.

Otay Valley Regional Park and Trail

The Otay Valley Regional Park will represent one of the major open space areas within the southern area of San Diego County, linking south San Diego Bay with lower Otay Lake. The regional park will extend about 11 miles inland from the southeastern edge of the salt ponds at the mouth of the river, through the Otay River Valley, to the land surrounding both

Lower and Upper Otay Lakes. Our first stop will be **Finney Interpretive Overlook**, opened in November 2005. The Finney Interpretive Overlook provides spectacular views of the Otay Valley Regional Park corridor. From this prominent overlook on the river valley's south side, you will have a "big" picture view of the Otay Valley Regional Park. The next stop will be at the new **City of San Diego** staging area and ranger station for an update of development projects and recently completely new trail segments.



*Finney Interpretive Overlook
M. Vancio 11/05*

Sweetwater Regional River and Loop Trail

The Sweetwater River is one of the main geographical features of the South Bay with its headwaters at 5,000 feet in the Cuyamaca Mountains, the Sweetwater River runs to San Diego



Along the Sweetwater River

Bay, stopping off at Sweetwater and Loveland Reservoirs along the way. The Sweetwater Valley is nearly the size of Mission Valley, but rather than being filled with freeways, shopping malls and apartments, a large portion is parkland where visitors can really enjoy the Sweetwater River as it meanders along. The Sweetwater County Park runs from the end of the Sweetwater Reservoir, near Spring Valley Interstate 805. Our first stop is the staging area near the western park boundary and we will end the tour at Sweetwater Summit Park for an overview of the River Park and Greenway.

NOTE: Be sure to wear your hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes. There will be short hikes at each stop and the trails are fairly level. Be prepared for sun—most trails are in open areas with little shade.